

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6791**

**BILL NUMBER: SB 351**

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 18, 2006

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Medical Review Panel.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Steele

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**     **GENERAL**  
                              **DEDICATED**  
                              **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** No Fiscal Impact

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill permits a member of a Medical Review Panel to participate by telephone if the personal attendance of the member would be impractical or would impose a hardship.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2007.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *Background Information:* Medical Review Panels review proposed malpractice complaints against health care providers covered under the Indiana Medical Malpractice Act. Each panel consists of four individuals. The chairman, an attorney, serves in a nonvoting, advisory capacity to the panel, prepares the report, keeps records of the panel meetings and expenses, and presides over the meetings; the other three members are health care providers. With certain exceptions, the chairman is chosen by agreement of the two disputing parties. Each of the parties may select, with certain exceptions, one provider each to serve on the Medical Review Panel. The two named providers then select the third member. If they fail to do so on a timely basis, the chairman will select the third member of the panel. Except for health facility administrators, all health care providers in Indiana who hold a license to practice in their profession are required to be available to serve as members of a Medical Review Panel. IC 34-18-10 contains specific time frames in which activities must take place as well as provisions for determining hardship for individuals requesting to be excused from serving on a panel.

Each health care provider of the panel is entitled to be paid up to \$350 for all work performed and for reasonable travel expenses. The chairman is paid a \$250 per diem up to a maximum of \$2,000 plus reasonable travel expenses. The cost of the Medical Review Panel is paid by the party that the majority opinion favors; if there is no majority opinion, the costs are split 50/50.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:**

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